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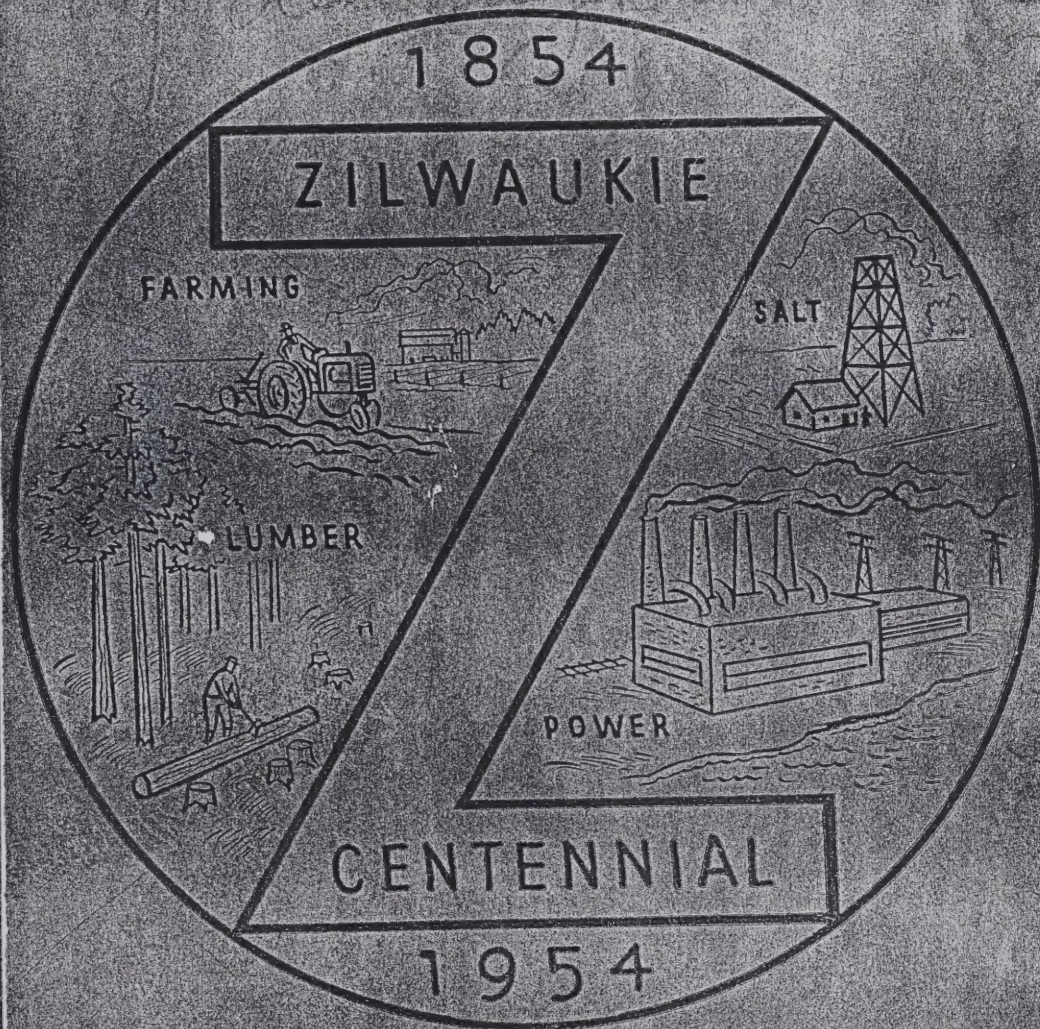
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ZILWAUKIE, WHERE THE WOODS
COME TO THE WATER

ZILWAUKIE

"WHERE THE WOODS COME
TO THE WATER"



JUNE 17, 18, 19, 1954

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"WHERE THE WOODS COME
TO THE WATER"



JUNE 17, 18, 19, 1954

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ON YOUR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

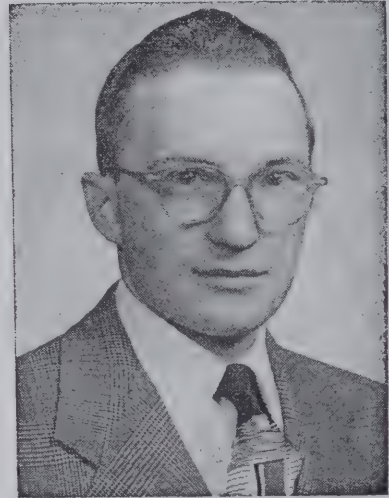
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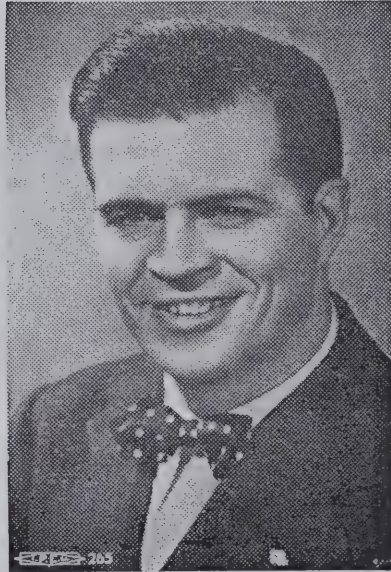
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
Office of the Governor
LANSING

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS
Governor

To the Residents of Zilwaukee Township:

As you celebrate with formal ceremonies the hundredth anniversary of the founding of Zilwaukee Township, it is a pleasure and a privilege to send you personal good wishes and to greet you on behalf of all the citizens of Michigan.

In the century since January 3, 1854, when the Saginaw County Board of Supervisors, on the application of fourteen freeholders led by Daniel and Solomon Johnson, proprietors of one of the first sawmills in the Saginaw Valley, established a new township "to be known and designated by the name of Zilwaukie," your community has always been an important contributor to the economy of our great state. With the passing years, lumbering has been succeeded by salt manufacture, agriculture and the production of electrical power, but many sons and daughters of Zilwaukee's pioneers still live and work on the land cleared by their fathers a hundred years ago.

Zilwaukee's Centennial Jubilee is sure to be a most enjoyable event, recalling the far-off days when Michigan's pine forests echoed with the cry of "Timber!" and her rivers floated never-ending streams of logs to busy sawmills around which rose the villages which have become prosperous and progressive cities. Through such celebrations and the customs and traditions they revive, today's citizens of Michigan are made familiar with the history of our state.

Sincerely,

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS
Governor

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P R O G R A M

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

"HOME TOWN EVENING"

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 8:00 P.M. | Proclamation |
| | Band Music |
| 8:30 P.M. | Lighting of Birthday Cake |
| 9:00 P.M. | Men's Stag Smoker |
| | Ladies' Card Party |

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

"SAGINAW COUNTY DAY"

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 6:55 A.M. | Church Bells and Siren |
| 7:00 A.M. | Executive Breakfast |
| 8:00 A.M. | Flag Raising |
| | Bomb Salute and Bugle |
| 9:00 A.M. | Midway, Mosher Amusements |
| 12:00 Noon | Bomb Salute |
| 1:00 P.M. | Kiddies Parade |
| 2:00 P.M. | "John's Hot Shots" |
| 3:00 P.M. | Kiddies Contests |
| 4:00 P.M. | Kramer's Accordions |
| 4:30 P.M. | Church Suppers |
| 6:00 P.M. | Bomb Salute |
| 7:00 P.M. | Crowning of King and Queen |
| 7:45 P.M. | Dramatic Presentation |
| | "Boy and Girl" in Song, Style and Music |
| 8:30 P.M. | Teen Age Dancing |
| 9:00 P.M. | Amateur Program |
| 9:30 P.M. | Public Square Dancing |
| 10:00 P.M. | Street Dancing |
| 11:00 P.M. | Midway 'till closing |

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FRIDAY, JUNE 18

"MILWAUKEE AND FRANKENMUTH DAY"

6:55 A.M.	Church Bells and Siren
8:00 A.M.	Flag Raising
	Bomb Salute and Bugle
9:00 A.M.	Midway, Mosher Amusements
10:00 A.M.	Bicycle Parade
11:00 A.M.	"John's Hot Shots"
12:00 Noon	Bomb Salute
2:00 P.M.	Dignitaries and Guests
4:00 P.M.	Baseball Game
4:30 P.M.	Church Suppers
7:00 P.M.	Edwina Wright Dance Teams
7:30 P.M.	Barber Shop Quartet
8:00 P.M.	Germania "Maennenchor"
9:00 P.M.	Square Dance Exhibition
9:30 P.M.	Crowning of "Beauty Queen"
10:00 P.M.	Coronation Ball
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P R O G R A M

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

"MILLINGTON AND TAWAS CITY DAY"

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 6:55 A.M. | Church Bells and Siren |
| 8:00 A.M. | Flag Raising |
| | Bomb Salute and Bugle |
| 9:00 A.M. | Midway, Mosher Amusements |
| 10:00 A.M. | Grand Centennial Parade |
| 12:00 Noon | Beef Barbecue |
| | Bomb Salute |
| 12:30 P.M. | German Band |
| 1:30 P.M. | Dignitaries and Guests |
| 2:30 P.M. | Firemen's Battle |
| 4:00 P.M. | Beard Judging and Awards |
| 5:00 P.M. | Rausch's Clown and Donkey Act. |
| 7:30 P.M. | Kramer's Accordions |
| 9:00 P.M. | Pageant |
| 10:30 P.M. | Grand Fireworks Display |
| 11:00 P.M. | Finale |

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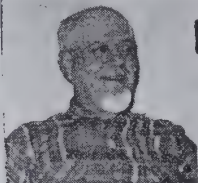
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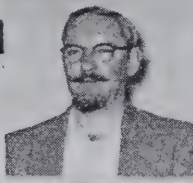
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Finance Chairman	Lenora Otto

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Awards	Robert Dammann	Lumber	Leslie Dunbar
Barbecue	Fred Westendorf	Meals, Banquet	Clara Metiva, Fidelis Kapuscinski
Barber Shop Quartet	George Boelter	Novelties	Harold Colpean
Concessions	Richard Blohm	P. A. System	John Jarema
Coronation	Magdalene Bauer, Belva Howland	Pageant	Roy Curtis
Decorations	Alfred Timm	Parade	Chas. Henning, Jr., Elmer Kreutzfeldt
Entertainment	George Metiva	Police, Parking	Nelson Bauer
Fireworks	Joseph B. Rehmann	Program	Ted Dukarski
Firemen's Battle	Errol E. Comstock	Publicity	Betty Evans
Floats	Harold H. Bauer	Square Dance	Edward Jarema
"Hen" Party	Anetta Rux, Helen Patow	Stag Smoker	Alfred Luplow, George Martin
Historical	Rev. Eugene A. Forbes	Style Show	Minnie Krueger
Hobbies	William Lovejoy	Birthday Cake	Mary Forbes
Honored Guests	The Executive Board	Music	Helen Dorey
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HISTORY OF ZILWAUKIE

It was just 100 years ago that Zilwaukee began its existence as a separate township of Saginaw County, Michigan. On January 3, 1854, the Board of Supervisors, in response to the previous application of 14 freeholders, established a new township in the county "to be known and designated by the name of Zilwaukie."

The original petition for the organization of the township had been laid before the Board two years earlier on January 5, 1852. Because of the fact, however, that a petition of remonstrances containing 34 signatures against the petition was also submitted, the Board postponed the organization.

The 1854 date is important to Zilwaukee's formal history, but things had been humming in the little community for years previously.

The first recorded footprint of the white man at Zilwaukee was made in 1835. In June of that year, Dr. Daniel H. Fitzhugh made his first visit to the Saginaw Valley. In riding over the prairies at Zilwaukee "where the blue-joint grass was as high as his pony's back, with nothing else in view except the distant timber and the flower-decked banks of the river," he was delighted with the view and purchased a large tract of prairie land below Zilwaukee where the Consumers' Power Company plant is now located.

Nothing was done by way of settlement at Zilwaukee until the year 1848, when Daniel and Solomon Johnson, from New York City, built a steam saw-mill on the shores of the Saginaw River at what today would be the foot of Tittabawassee Street.

Daniel and Solomon were the sons of William Penn Johnson and Mercy D. Cornell, both of English Quaker stock. The parents were married in a Quaker ceremony before 34 witnesses in Catskill (South of Albany), Greene County, New York, on June 24, 1819. In all there were 11 children born to the couple in their home at Bonnyvale, Monroe Valley, Orange County, New York, where there was a Quaker settlement established. The family was of considerable means, for the father had become very wealthy in the ship and timber business.

Daniel, their eldest child, was born on June 9, 1820, while Solomon, their second child, was born February 26, 1822. The boys received a very good education in New York State private schools. After graduation, they were immediately taken into their father's business.

Daniel married his wife, Hannah S., in New York, on August 23, 1842. Their marriage was blessed with one son, William P. Johnson, who was born October 23, 1844, in New York, and died in Omer, Michigan. A son of the latter, Walter P. Johnson, resided for years in Flint, Michigan. Solomon's wife's name is unknown, but he too had one son, Charles A. Johnson, who resided at 86 E. 10th Street, New York City.

One of the Johnson sisters, Deborah, was married to Benjamin Franklin Fisher in Bonnyvale on February 4, 1848. Benjamin F. Fisher became an associate of the brothers in their Zilwaukee venture.

CONGRATULATIONS ZILWAUKIE

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PRESENTING! BEAUTY QUEEN JOAN DUBY (center) and her court who were chosen from 56 entrants of a beauty contest held in the Public School Auditorium on January 16, 1954. Judges were the County Sheriff and Supervisors of four neighboring Townships. The attendants are, left to right: Shirley McGuire, Anna Rae Davenport, Queen Joan, Coral Luplow, and Ivaloe Donnenwerth. Shirley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis McGuire; Anna Rae's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Sam W. Davenport; Queen Joan is the daughter of Mrs. Leona and the late Earl Duby. Coral is the daughter of Leonard and the late Mrs. Helen Luplow; and Ivaloe's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Donnenwerth.

Another sister, Sarah, was married to Hiram S. Penoyer, an attorney of Saginaw City, and proprietor of the "Penoyer Farm," which became a subdivision of Saginaw's Northwest side. It was while on a visit to her Zilwaukee brothers that Sarah became acquainted with Penoyer, to whom she was married at New York on October 29, 1851.

Birdsall Cornell, likewise an associate of the Johnsons, was their first cousin, being a son of their mother's brother. Cornell handled the New York end of the firm's business from their office at 139 William Street, New York.

The geneology information of the Johnson family here given was obtained by the writer from Lillian Sarah Fisher of Saginaw, who is a granddaughter of Benjamin F. Fisher and Deborah Johnson.

With a stake of money from their father, the two Johnson boys came into Saginaw Valley and began construction of a sawmill at Zilwaukee. We know they were busy at work on their mill here in 1848, for on December 17, 1848, Benjamin F. Fisher wrote a letter to his sister-in-law, Sarah Johnson, in which he stated that "Solomon (Johnson) paid us a visit (at Saginaw City) and dined with us. He is engaged all week down the River at their place which they call Zilwaukie. He only spends Sundays here in town." At the time of their beginnings in Zilwaukee, Daniel was 28 years of age and Solomon was 26.

When the Johnsons located in Zilwaukee in 1848, the place contained only one family, one house and three shanties huddled fearfully on the river bank.

THE JOHNSON MILL, upon completion, was the largest steam sawmill in the valley and remained so for several years. The mill was really something to see. In 1853 it had a gang of 25 saws in one frame set to cut lumber of all widths, passing through the log at once and cutting it up into inch, one and one-quarter inches, two, and three-inch, of other dimensions, with one

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operation. There was no gigging back, but as fast as the log was worked through, another came up to the saws, the log having first been sided or slabbed off by an upright saw. These were the first gang saws, as far as can be determined, which were put into operation in the Saginaw River mills.

Aside from the gang saws, this mill drove two upright and six buzz saws. The cost of the mill was \$40,000 and it had cut from 6 to 7 million feet of lumber in the year 1852. A secondary mill, located below the former, had two upright and two buzz saws. There was still another mill devoted wholly to making lath from the slabs and waste of the other mills.

The Johnsons needed help in a hurry for their mill and commissioned agents in the East, so the story goes, to recruit labor from among the immigrants then coming to the United States in great numbers. It was at the time of the large-scale emigration from Germany between the years 1845 and 1859. Many from that country were familiar with Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where there was already a large German settlement established. There is good authority which holds that the Johnsons, by the ruse of naming their settlement "Zilwaukie", lured workers to their projected village.

It seems certain that the name is not derivative from the Indian language. Indian names are usually discriptive as applied to places, streams, etc. "Zilwaukie", according to the experts, means nothing in the Indian language, while "Milwaukee" itself means "fine land."

The Indians, moreover, did have a name for this part of the shores of the river. They called it "Ne-mite-e-qua," or "Me-ta-gong", which means substantially "Where the woods come to the water." So in the descriptive Chippewa parlance, it might be said that "Nemitequa" was the first place above Bay City on the Saginaw River where the forest extended to the river.

It was not the intention of the brothers to make this anything more than a lumbering point. Subsequent circumstances induced them to locate a village here.

"Notice — 2,000 Lots for Sale"

"I, the undersigned in the flourishing village of Zilwaukie, We here state that our village is situated on the west bank of Saginaw river, fifteen miles from its mouth, and at the Head of Ship Navigation, and in center of a rich and fast improving country. The following Plank Roads terminate at this place—Saginaw and Genesee, 25 miles in length, (nearly completed); the Saginaw and Corunna, 46 miles (just begun); and the Zilwaukie, Grand Traverse and Mackinaw, 250 miles—will be commenced within the coming year. The above roads will all be finished within three years, and cannot do less than make this one of the first commercial towns in the State. The above lots will be sold on favorable terms to actual settlers, and are free of any incumbrance whatever. The population of our village is now about two hundred, and must be not less than three times that number within one year, in order to keep pace with the growing wants of the surrounding country."

"JOHNSONS & WESTERVELT"

Zilwaukie, November 13, 1851"

This advertisement, which appeared in successive editions of "The Spirit of the Times," a newspaper of Saginaw City (Saginaw West Side), tells of the hopes of the Johnson brothers, Daniel and Solomon, and their associates, to make their newly-surveyed village the metropolis of the Saginaw Valley and one of the foremost cities of the State of Michigan.

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ZILWAUKEE'S "LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE," and the King and Queen of its Centennial, are Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Westendorf, who this year celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 28, 1889. They have 6 children, 22 grand children, 34 great grand children, and 1 great great grand child. Mr. Westendorf was born in Hamburg, Germany, Oct. 26, 1867. Mrs. Westendorf was born Louise Metiva in Zilwaukee on April 4, 1870. Mr. Westendorf is pictured sporting the beard he grew for the Centennial.

Then the Johnsons began to dream . . . their settlement would be the eventual metropolis of the Saginaw Valley for the reason that a sand bar farther up the river at Carrollton reduced the draft of lake vessels to five and six feet from the twelve-foot depth at Zilwaukee, which was thus located at the head of deep-water navigation in the river.

SEVERAL FACTORS pictured the dream of the brothers. In 1848 Saginaw City (Saginaw West Side) to the South was already a settlement of about 900 persons. But competition was arising from another quarter. Norman Little, as agent for Hoyt & Co. of New York, purchased the land on which East Saginaw is located in 1849, just one year after the Johnsons settled in Zilwaukee. Curtis Emerson, who had settled just outside of the original plat of East Saginaw and had secured the organization of Buena Vista Township in 1849, was soon offering lots for sale in his "Village of Buena Vista". The race was on. Zilwaukee and Buena Vista were outdistanced by East Saginaw, which was no more favorably located, but was backed by Jesse Hoyt's more ample capital. The Johnsons in their turn became bankrupt and the U. S. Government later dealt Zilwaukee the crowning blow when it dredged a channel through the "Carrollton Flats".

The Johnson mill settlement quickly became quite flourishing and self-sufficient. Its general store, operating under the title of Johnsons & Westervelt, offered to the public "Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, Ready Made Clothing, etc." A bookstore, run by Benjamin F. Fisher, sold "Novels — a great variety of Harper's Novels." A boarding house, called the "Clark House," was built to give room and board to the mill hands. Enlarged and refurnished, it was reopened under the supervision of Mr. Henry Flatau, who was tendered a complimentary ball by his friends on Friday evening, February 10, 1854. The notice of the event in *The Spirit of the Times* stated that "a capital opportunity will be afforded all to 'shake the hoof'".

One of the first things the Johnsons did was to build a plank road from Zilwaukee to a point on the river shore opposite East Saginaw, thus connecting their embryo village with civilization. On September 1, 1853, a stage route was opened on this road between Saginaw City (Saginaw West Side) and Zilwaukee.

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ABOVE IS AN ETCHING OF ZILWAUKEE as it appeared in 1854. Discernible in the sketch are the main mill of the firm of "Johnsons and Westervelt," and their secondary mill located above the former. In the background are the "Clark Hotel," a general store, and several dwellings. Moored to the dock is a schooner being loaded with lumber for Chicago, New York and other principal cities of the country.

On September 13, 1853, the brothers opened their books to public inspection for the purpose of obtaining stock subscriptions for a plank road from their village to the Tittabawassee River.

There was no end to the versatility of the Johnson brothers.

In 1851 Daniel Johnson built a small steamboat which he named the "Snow." It was the third boat to be built in the valley. The first was a schooner, the "Julia Smith," and the second was the steamboat "Buena Vista," built by Curtis Emerson.

The brothers also took steps to open a bank of their own called "The Bank of Zilwaukie," and, in 1856, had quantities of money printed that was a masterpiece of the engraver's art. The 1, 2 and 3 dollar bills have a sketch of the village, with its smoking mills, printed on their front. There was even an issue of 50 and 25 cent denominations in smaller size. All bear the legend: "Due the Bearer, on demand, at our Office in Zilwaukie, \$....., without interest, for value received." The money was never put into circulation.

Daniel Johnson, the spokesman of the brothers, was an energetic and enterprising man. They say he was fastidious in his tastes, with a liking for spirited horses which he drove between his village and Saginaw City where he lived. Because of his later failure, Daniel Johnson has been termed a "munificent eccentric," and a "visionary." Judge Albert Miller, however, who knew Johnson personally, says that he was in advance of public opinion and compares him with Norman Little of East Saginaw as "far-sighted, public-spirited and devoted to the interests of the valley."

THE ORIGINAL OWNERS of the land whereon Zilwaukee village is situated were Otis Shepard of Chicago and Hiram S. Penoyer of Saginaw City, who held patent from the U. S. Government. As proprietors they commissioned Alexander Alberti to survey a plat on their land of the "Village of Zilwaukie." This he did in January, 1851. In the previous month Alberti had completed a survey of the original plat of East Saginaw, known as the "Hoyt Plat," for Alfred M. Hoyt.

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The Zilwaukee plat was recorded with the Register of Deeds of Saginaw County on April 2, 1855. It was certainly an attractive village which the surveyor laid out, containing two full blocks of playground. It is interesting to note that on the original plat, Westervelt, Jefferson, Franklin and Adams are given as "Avenues", while the other roads of the village running East and West are designated as "Streets." The Johnsons, besides naming the streets after several Presidents of the U. S., likewise forever memorialized themselves and their associates, Otis Shepard, Birdsall Cornell, Benjamin F. Fisher, and John A. Westervelt.

Though part of the township was recorded as a village, Zilwaukee was never incorporated as a village and has had none other than the township form of government. A movement to have much of the township lying West of the river incorporated as a fifth-class city was defeated at the polls by 38 votes in September, 1951.

The area of Zilwaukee Township has remained substantially the same since its origin. Its outer edges were trimmed by the Board of Supervisors when adjacent townships were organized. The largest sacrifice of territory was made to Kochville Township when this was formed in 1856.

The 14 freeholders who, on November 28, 1853, made application to the Saginaw County Board of Supervisors to organize a new township to be called "Zilwaukie" were the following: Charles L. Richman, E. N. Davenport, Luke Wellington, Louis Duprat, Antoine Duprat, John Davis, Jerry Davis, Daniel Johnson, Benjamin F. Fisher, Jacob Wright, James Barrett, Caspar Schultheis, Michael Walker and John H. Schroeder. On January 3, 1854, as stated above, the Board, in response to their plea, established a new township and called the 1st annual meeting for the election of its officers for the following January 20th.

TODAY ZILWAUKIE HONORS HER

Oldest Resident Native —

Miss Bertha Luth
317 W. Johnson
84 years of age
Born in Zilwaukee on
March 28, 1870

Oldest Resident —

Mrs. May Johnson
212 W. Shepard
92 years of age
Born in Seville Township
Gratiot County, on
March 2, 1862

Longest Married Couple —

Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Westendorf
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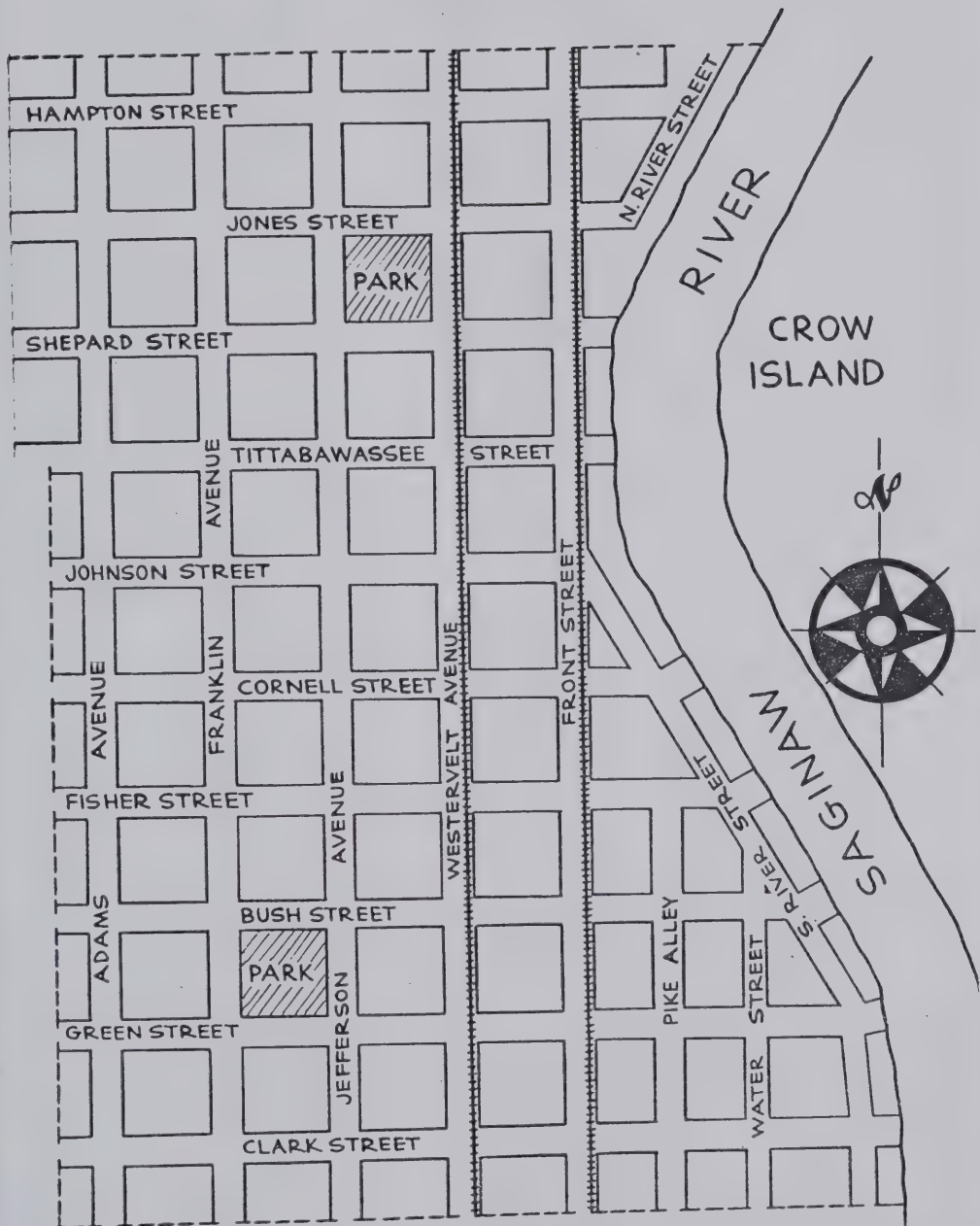
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PLAT OF THE VILLAGE of ZILWAUKIE



ABOVE IS A DRAWING OF THE ORIGINAL ZILWAUKEE VILLAGE PLAT which was surveyed by Alexander Alberti in January, 1851. Alberti, who also served as Township Supervisor (1860-61), only the month previously had surveyed the original "Hoyt Plat" of East Saginaw for Alfred Hoyt. Of the above plat, the streets East of Westervelt remain unopened, along with Hampton Street to the North.

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The meeting was duly held on that date in the offices of the Johnson Brothers' mill. The poll list of the meeting gives 41 men who chose the following township officers:

Supervisor—Charles Dames.

Clerk—Charles H. Brower.

Treasurer—Charles Lewis.

School Inspector—Benjamin F. Fisher.

Justices of the Peace—Daniel Johnson, Benjamin F. Fisher, William L. Marsh, Caspar Schultheis.

Overseers of the Poor—Jacob Wright, Louis Duprat.

Highway Commissioner—Louis Duprat.

Constables—Asher Parks, Robert A. Shirley, Henry Flatau, Jeremiah Davis.

The 1st Board of Commissioners of Highways for the township was also chosen: Jacob Wright, Chairman; George and Charles Lewis; and Charles H. Brower, Clerk. Their first meeting was held at the Clark House on June 19, 1854.

With \$1,000 raised by the Township Board for highway purposes, the Highway Commissioners began the herculean task of opening roads through the forests that were as yet merely platted on paper. They established three road districts with overseers for each. In June they had three access roads surveyed through the woods: from Zilwaukee to "Hardscrabble" (as the Northeast end of Kochville Township was familiarly called); the Dr. Wellington Road; and the Zilwaukee-Carrollton Road. In 1855 another road was begun from Zilwaukee to "some point on the West Bank of the Saginaw River in Hampton Township" (Bay County).

The Commissioners were exacting in their road specifications. Below are the specifications of the Tittabawassee and Hardscrabble Roads. They give one a good idea of road construction in the lumbering days in this area. The road was to be built in the following manner:

"First: By grubbing and grading a road-way 20 feet in width.

"Second: By laying on such parts of the road as is wet or swampy, round or split rails 10 feet in length and no longer, and not more than 6 nor less than 4 inches in diameter in as close proximity as they can be laid and also in a perfectly straight line as regards the direction of the road.

"Third: By digging a ditch on the south side of each road 5 feet wide and 2 feet deep—and throwing the excavated earth upon the "Corduoy" or crossway of rails and grading it then to equal depth 8 feet wide, that is, to within one foot of each side of the crossway or end of the rails; and on dryer lands where no rails shall be laid, by grading the excavated earth from the ditch in such exact corresponding manner to that on the "Corduoy."—The ditches must be dug in straight lines, and the one on the Tittabawassee Road must be exactly upon the Township line, and the other corresponding to that already made on the prairie—and the ditches

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SHOWN ABOVE IS A SAMPLE OF THE CURRENCY issued by the Johnsons in 1856 from their newly established "Bank of Zilwaukee." The money was printed in issues of \$3.00, \$2.00, \$1.00, 50c and 25c. There was no printing on the reverse side of the bills and they were never put into circulation. Because of their scarcity, they are more valuable as collectors' items now than when they were first issued.

must also be 2½ feet from the Corduroy, and at such places as the Commissioners may designate: The roads shall be built of double width, and not exceeding 6 rods in length at any one point, and the said points or turnouts shall not occur oftener than once in 30 rods.

"Proposals or bids must be for each of the portions of work, namely: Grubbing and grading, putting down the rails, or Corduroy, and digging the ditch, which last includes the grading of the excavated earth."

The contract for this particular work was awarded on September 1, 1854, to Alexander Russel of Tittabawassee Township who was the low bidder at \$2 per rod. The aggregate most commonly used for road surfaces was, quite naturally, sawdust.

The Commissioners were no less exacting in their specifications for drainage ditches. The ditch on the West side of Westervelt Street had to be "four feet wide at the top, two feet wide at the bottom, and two feet deep."

In the beginning, the Highway Commissioners fixed a highway poll tax at "one day's labor for each \$1,000 upon the assessment roll." In successive years, the assessment figure was lowered to \$200, \$100, and finally "on every male inhabitant of Zilwaukee of age 21 and under 50 years of age." Still later it was "One dollar or one day's work from every male inhabitant of 21 and under 50 years of age."

THE NEW TOWNSHIP BOARD enacted its first By-Laws on April 3, 1854. These were concerned principally with the restraining of domestic animals and the damages allowable if these were permitted to roam at large. To contain them when apprehended, the Board raised \$25 for the building of a public pound, and created a new office of Poundmaster. Lots 1 and 10, Block 37, in the village were donated by Daniel Johnson for this purpose.

Storm clouds were slowly gathering over the heads of the Johnsons. The original firm of Johnsons & Westervelt, "doing business in New York, Chicago and Zilwaukee, Saginaw Co., Mich." was dissolved by mutual consent on October 4, 1853. The brothers continued operations as "D. & S. Johnson", but not for long.

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One of Daniel Johnson's many projects was the construction of a road some 250 miles in length which would be called "The Zilwaukie, Grand Traverse and Mackinaw." Johnson's idea was to construct a plank road between Zilwaukee and Mackinaw, then a frontier military station almost inaccessible during the Winter months. When Michigan was still a territory, the U. S. Government began construction of a road from Detroit to Mackinaw. The project was abandoned when the road reached Pine Run in Genesee County. Johnson's plan was to complete it along the lines of the original survey. He tried to secure the passage of an act of Congress authorizing a land grant in aid of his project. Twice a law for that purpose passed the House of Representatives, but failed in the Senate. The U. S. Government was not quite ready to raid the public domain for the purpose of opening the West to homesteading and commerce. Later it was not so reluctant for it made many such land grants for railroad and highway construction. The next time you travel on highway US 10-27 to the North, remember that Dan Johnson, at least in thought, was there ahead of you 100 years ago.

In their efforts to secure passage of this bill, Johnson and his friends spent large sums of money of their own and borrowed heavily from other lumbermen. Their creditors pressed them for payment and the Circuit Court of Saginaw County, on February 5, 1856, issued the inevitable writ of foreclosure to the Sheriff. For a year and eight months the brothers fought for survival. At length, on October 24, 1857, their extensive holdings at Zilwaukee were sold at public auction on the Court House steps.

When the Johnsons sank, they pulled their friend John A. Westervelt under with them. In September of that year he was forced to sell his sawmill even though it was only "2 years old and in entire and perfect running order."

The operation of the Johnson mill was taken over for awhile by John Drake. Afterwards the mill was purchased by lumberman James H. Hill. Ezra Rust operated it for Mr. Hill until about 1863. The two Johnsons would now and then pay nostalgic visits to the scene of their hopes and failure at Zilwaukee.

Daniel Johnson died at Saginaw City on October 6, 1860, just several years after his Zilwaukee failure and when he was only 40 years of age.

About 1858 Solomon Johnson left the Saginaw Valley for California, and became engaged in gold mining and other enterprises. He was a proficient Spanish scholar, and did extensive traveling on the Pacific Coast. For years he was a contributor to the "Overland Monthly Magazine" published at San Francisco, treating as subjects mostly the mineral resources of the West Coast. Solomon died at Nevada City, California, on May 18, 1880, at 58 years of age. His sister, Deborah Johnson Fisher, was with him three weeks previous to his death. With this consoling exception, Solomon had not seen any of his relatives since going to California some 22 years before. The obituary notice of his death stated that "He was a man of few words and seldom made acquaintances. Those who became associated with him speak in the highest terms of his qualities. As a business man, he was far-seeing and enterprising. His shoulder once at the wheel, he never turned back. He had acquired a fine property, leaving a third interest in the Mt. Auburn gold quartz mine near Nevada City." Solomon also had a claim in the Knickerbocker Mine in the vicinity.

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THE ZILWAUKEE TOWNSHIP HALL was constructed in 1877 by Herman Huss, a Zilwaukee resident, at a cost of \$985. Remodeled several times in the course of its 77 years, the venerable building is the center of Township activities and administration.

After the Zilwaukee failure, Benjamin F. Fisher was engaged in the insurance business in Saginaw City, until August 10, 1871, when he and his family also left the Saginaw Valley for Lincoln, Nebraska, where he engaged in the insurance, real estate and loan business. His home on the corner of Monroe and Hamilton Streets, Saginaw City, became the Rectory of Fr. Reinurus Van Der Heyden, first pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Saginaw. Benjamin Fisher died in Los Angeles, California, on March 20, 1880, predeceasing his brother-in-law, Solomon, by two months. It is a coincidence of Fate, that Deborah Johnson buried her husband and her brother only two months apart.

A DIGRESSION is in order here calling attention to the military service record in the Civil War of two of Zilwaukee's founding fathers.

Alexander Alberti, the surveyor of the village plat, left his post of Township Supervisor (1860-61) and was commissioned a 1st lieutenant in the 5th Infantry on June 19, 1861. The unit left Detroit for the front in September that year and entered into the Virginia Peninsular Campaign. It fought in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. Mustering in with 983 men, it reported a loss of 426 before November, 1862. The battle of Gettysburg was entered by the command at 4:00 p. m., July 2, 1863, and within one hour it lost 105 men, 19 of whom were killed, 90 wounded, and 5 missing. Its losses for 1863 and 1864 were 196 killed, 572 wounded, and 111 taken prisoner. Alexander Alberti, however, escaped injury in these battles and was discharged with the rank of captain on July 9, 1864. Alberti's return, however, was not to Zilwaukee. In 1865 he became associated with Curtis Emerson and the Township of Buena Vista. He was elected its supervisor for the years 1865-66 and 1873.

Benjamin F. Fisher, who began another mill in Zilwaukee with the Johnsons as partners, and was Township Supervisor for the years 1856 and 1857, joined the 16th Infantry. He became a captain on August 9, 1861. Wounded, he was made prisoner at Gaines' Mill, Va., on June 27, 1862. He was paroled in August that year, and made a major of the 23rd Infantry later that month. He resigned his commission on February 13, 1863. With the 16th Regiment under General McClellan, he participated in all the engagements of the period from Yorktown to Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Middleburg and Gaines' Mill.

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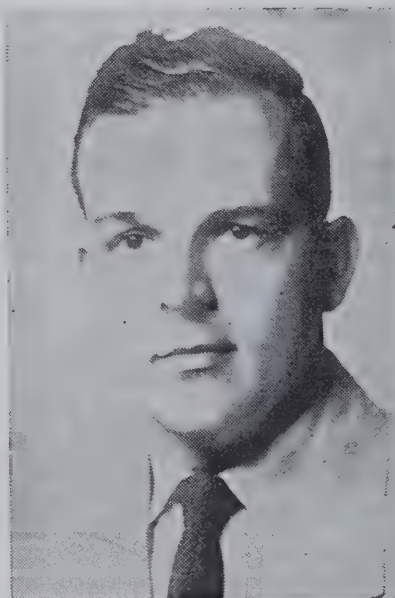
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The mushroom growth of the lumber industry along the Saginaw had its effect in Zilwaukee. Mills were springing up along the banks of the stream during the 1850s and 60s. Besides the mills of the Johnson brothers mentioned, in the early 1850s Benjamin F. Fisher joined the brothers in forming Fisher & Johnsons mill. Up to 1858, there were only three mills located in Zilwaukee. Their lumber production and its value for the year 1857 is thus listed by Truman B. Fox in his "History of Saginaw County from 1810 to 1858":

Sawmill	Lumber Produced	Value
Johnson's (John Drake), 4 million feet		\$35,000
B. F. Fisher (the original Fisher & Johnsons), 1½ million feet		\$10,000
John A. Westervelt (the original Chapin & Andrews), 4 million feet		\$35,000

About the year 1863, Zilwaukee began to revive after the years of uncertainty that followed the failure of the Johnsons. The *East Saginaw Courier* of October 7, 1863, gives the following account of the township's recovery:

"This locality, so famous for its moist experience amid the 'war of the elements,' the subject of so many jokes — by no means dry — the spot made historic by the monster expenditures of a Westervelt and the munificent excentricities of Dan Johnson, is coming up — topographically by the aid of well-considered drains and ditches, and the accumulated debris of its mills and manufacturing establishments — financially thro' the enterprise of 'go-ahead' proprietors of whom it has recently been blessed with a liberal infusion—the encouraging standard of an enterprising Saginaw village, with the usual city proclivities thereunto belonging and in everywise appertaining.

"Two steam sawmills, a Barrel manufactory, and three salt blocks of sixty kettles each are now in full operation within the corporate limits of the place, while a short distance below, the Michigan Salt Co. are erecting 100 acres of solar covers; a little further down a New York company are making preparations to expend five hundred thousand dollars in salt and lumber operations, and, on the Crow Reservation, in the immediate vicinity, the Oneida Salt Co. are at

CROW ISLAND

Crow Island gets its name from a Chippewa chief, Kawkawiskou, or "the Crow." In the Treaty of Saginaw which General Lewis Cass negotiated with the Indians in 1819, the Chippewa nation ceded the U. S. Government great tracts of land in this area. From the cession, however, a number of tracts were reserved for the use of the Chippewa Indians. One such "reservation" was: "For the use of Kawkawiskou, or the Crow, a Chippewa chief, six hundred and forty acres of land, on the east side of the Saginaw river, at a place called Menitsgow, and to include, in the said six hundred and forty acres, the island opposite to the said place." This reservation was called "The Crow Reserve" of which Crow Island formed a part.

The shore of the island facing Zilwaukee was subdivided into 114 lots, 50' x 150', by the "Kaw-Kaw-is-Kaw Family Resort Association" in the year 1914 in a not very-successful venture to attract summer resorters. The part of the island and "reserve" lying North of the power line are within the limits of Zilwaukee Township.

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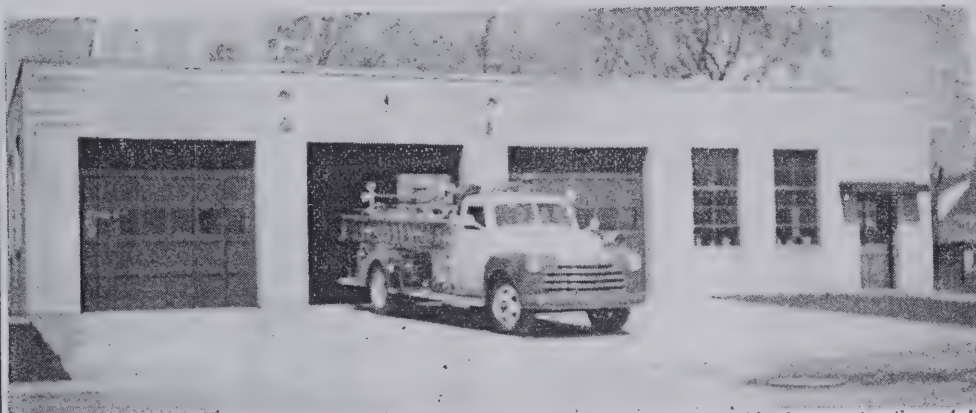
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THE ZILWAUKEE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT was begun in 1947 with the construction of its station above and the purchase of a new fire truck. The 30 volunteer firemen undergo a rigorous initial training course of 6 weeks' duration and continue their training monthly in fire-fighting techniques. The volunteers are kept constantly alert by "practice runs" which may and do occur anytime day or night. Joseph E. LaBrash is the present Chief of the Department.

work with the design of covering five hundred acres with solar works. These enterprises have greatly added to the value of real estate in Zilwaukee, and stimulated sales to an extent little dreamed of by those who have been so persistently poking fun at our down-river neighbors in times past.

"Last week the following sale was made of village property at auction:

Block 93	\$1,346.00
House and lot in Block 54	275.00
Lot in Block 54	132.00
Lot in Block 66	112.00
House and Lot in Block 55	465.00
Two lots in Block 55	460.00

"Besides the above not less than three thousand dollars worth of real estate has changed hands in Zilwaukee during the present season."

The early history of Zilwaukee is intimately bound with the history of its sawmills and salt blocks. It will not be necessary to mention all the mills by name since some were small and others were short-lived. In reality there are only about a dozen mill sites involved.

THE ORIGINAL MILL of the Johnsons passed through several hands, and finally came into ownership in 1865 of Rust, Eaton, and Co. Partners in the firm were: Ezra and Amasa Rust, James Hay, Daniel L. C. Eaton, George L. Burrows and Augustine S. Gaylord. The company rebuilt and remodeled it, putting in new machinery throughout. The first salt well at this mill site was bored in 1862. In 1880, they had two wells. In the mill were five large boilers which supplied the machinery with motive power. The main saws consisted of a 38-inch gang and a large circular saw. Capacity of the mill was 14 million feet annually, and of the salt works, 25,000 barrels. The company owned a large number of village lots and sold them to their workmen

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at low prices and on easy terms. The mill employed about 75 men, and ceased sawing lumber each year about the 1st of November.

In the Spring of 1863, Aaron T. and Lyman W. Bliss bought the Dr. J. H. Jerome mill at the Southern part of Zilwaukee Township on the West bank of the river. The firm was known as Bliss & Bros. The approach to the mill lay due East from the Carrollton & Zilwaukee Road. The Bayou was spanned with a bridge 40 ft. in width to keep the channel open. The firm did successful business until its dissolution in 1898.

Any listing of Saginaw River mills must not omit mention of that first among the first: Wellington R. Burt & Co. at the New York Works (so called because the company originated in New York) which was located below the present Consumers' Power Co. property on the West bank of the river. This was one of the largest and most complete mills in the State. Besides sawmills, the plant contained a stave and heading mill, a shingle mill, barrel factory, salt works, carpenter shops, blacksmith shops, and even a gas works for lighting the property and buildings. There was also a school house built by the company, which children attended for 7 months of the year, and the community was supplied with "a fine public library." The Burt mill was begun in 1867 and started operations in July, 1868. The total capital investment in the place was \$183,000, exclusive of the company's investment in timbered lands. In 1874, the establishment employed 230 men. The boomage of the mill had a capacity of 8 million feet, and the mill docks a capacity of 10 million feet of sawed lumber. The salt docks could hold 10,000 barrels. The plant was protected by a fire engine and hundreds of feet of fire hose were kept near several hydrants scattered about the premises.

THE WORKERS dwelt in 45 houses owned by the company, each housing a family. Single men boarded with the families, or at the two boarding houses on the property. Mr. Burt's practice of furnishing dwellings for his workmen secured him good, reliable help "which is much preferable to the transit labor so much in vogue in Saginaw valley, and very much against its prosperity." When many of the Saginaw River mills were closed down by strikes, the W. R. Burt mill was humming with activity. The principal offices of the company were on Water Street in East Saginaw.

Hamilton, McClure & Co. were the successors to W. R. Burt & Co. Its officers were J. A. Hamilton, Jethro Mitchell and William McClure. The company increased the production capacity of the mill and salt block. The McClure solar salt works were the last to be operated in the Saginaw Valley.

In 1880, Henry Melchers and Leonard Nerreter began a shingle and salt mill on Crow Island. The cost of the mill machinery and salt block was \$16,000. The mill cut 10 million shingles and produced 20,000 barrels of salt annually. It employed about 35 men.

The Saginaw Lumber & Salt Co. was organized in 1881 with a capital of \$100,000. Its officers were: Ralph A. Loveland, President; Otis Shepard, Vice-president; and R. H. Roys, Secretary-Treasurer. For many years the annual cut of the mill at Crow Island was 20 million feet. The salt block connected with the mill had a capacity of 50,000 barrels. Afterward, the mill plant was moved to Sandwich, Canada, opposite Detroit, where it was operated for several years, and then again taken down and rebuilt at Georgian Bay.

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ONE FACT which rankled within the breasts of Zilwaukeeans was the absentee-ownership of their mills. The proprietors for the most part lived in the Saginaws, which often became the objects of their beneficence. "They make their money in Zilwaukee and spend 'er in Saginaw" was the familiar complaint. For example, Wellington R. Burt gave East Saginaw its Auditorium and the Burt Manual Training School. Ezra Rust gave that city its Rust Park and Aaron T. Bliss bequeathed Bliss Park to Saginaw City. So it was not only poor labor-management relationship which led Zilwaukeeans to turn on two of their employers at the voting polls. When W. R. Burt ran for governor of Michigan in 1888, he received 163 Zilwaukee votes to 169 for his opponent, Cyrus G. Luce. Aaron T. Bliss was elected governor two years later, but it was not Zilwaukee votes which put him in the State Capitol. Only 77 villagers voted for him, while 120 voted for his opponent, William C. Maybury.

A great propulsion force to the already throbbing industrial life of Zilwaukee was the completion on January 7, 1868, of the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw Railroad (now the Michigan Central) directly through the village on the last leg of its journey from Chicago to Wenona (West Bay City) on Saginaw Bay. Previously, at a special election, townspeople had voted aid to the railroad by way of a \$5,000 bond issue. One of the stipulations of the deal was that the railroad was "to construct in Zilwaukee suitable freight and passenger depots." The railroad was slow in building its depots. The Township Board, accordingly, refused to assess the taxes necessary to redeem the bonds. The litigation reached the State Supreme Court which handed down

Supervisors of Zilwaukee Township

1854	Charles Danes
1855	Luke Wellington
1856 - 1857	Benjamin F. Fisher
1858 - 1859	George Lewis
1860 - 1861	Alexander Alberti
1862	Caspar Schultheis
1863 - 1865	Thomas W. Hastings
1866 - 1869	Jacob Wright
1870 - 1871	John H. Doyle
1872 - 1873	Jacob Wright
1874 - 1887	John H. Doyle
1888 - 1889	Peter Hax
1890 - 1892	Achilles A. Harris
1893 - 1895	Ernest Koehler
1896 - 1901	John Baird
1902 - 1908	Edward Oakley
1909 - 1912	Henry L. Bauer
1913 - 1917	John Baird (Chairman of Board — 1915)
1918	Henry L. Bauer
1919 - 1923	Wm. J. Siegrist
1924 - 1930	Edward Hanson
1931 - 1936	Geo. C. Luplow
1937 - 1939	Wm. J. Siegrist
1940 - 1948	Claude Meehleder
1949 - 1952	Howard Luplow
1953 - 1954	Harold H. Bauer

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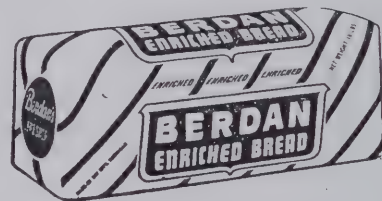
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THE PRESENT ZILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOL was constructed in 1925, with a 4-room addition built in 1938. Not shown, but under construction to the North of the building, is a \$290,000 gymnasium and classroom addition. Present teachers are: Superintendent, William Lieffers; Roy W. Curtis, Everette Fager, Mary Voelker, Helen Walsh, Kathryn Morris, Ruth McGuire, Jean Apsey, Lucy Luplow, Gertrude Fiebig, Judith Schaberg and Lola Allman.

a judgment against the township in March, 1875. In conjunction with their vote for the bond issue, voters decided that the railroad should pass through Westervelt Street in the village. The vote was divided: 41 voters favoring Westervelt, and 28 favoring Adams Street.

In the late 1860s the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad built a short branch line to Zilwaukee from the West end of the Genesee Street bridge in Saginaw. Now the growing community possessed passenger and freight service to all parts of the United States. The products of its sawmills and salt blocks could be sped by rail to the North, South, East and West.

In 1887 the Toledo, Saginaw and Mackinaw Railroad (later the Cincinnati, Saginaw and Mackinaw) was completed from Durand to Wenona. Its route through the Village of Zilwaukee was along Front Street. In 1893 the road became, as it is today, the Grand Trunk Railroad.

In 1894 the Interurban Electric Line was completed through Zilwaukee from Saginaw to Bay City. Built largely with the capital of Isaac Bearinger, the 15 mile road cost more than \$500,000 to complete. It gave Zilwaukee villagers swift access to their neighboring cities to the South and North, Saginaw and Bay City. Round-trip fare from Saginaw to Bay City was twenty-five cents, or one way for fifteen cents. The road was sold in 1898 to the Saginaw Valley Traction Company.

The churches were not long in following their children to their new and growing settlement.

Probably the first church building to be constructed was the Lutheran about 1865, though its site on S. Franklin Street was not donated by its owner, John Dahl, to the St. John Lutheran Church Society until February 16, 1869. The original building still stands on the property and serves as a parish hall. The original Catholic Church site on Westervelt Street was purchased by Rev. Fr. Reinurus Van Der Heyden, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Saginaw, on January 9, 1867, and made a mission of the Saginaw Church. The original building was destroyed by fire on December 3, 1944.

Both churches have continued till the present day in their work of ministration to the spiritual needs of Zilwaukee residents.

A Methodist Episcopal Church, called "The First Methodist Church of Zilwaukee," was begun with the purchase, on March 1, 1872, from Ezra Rust, of a lot on the Northeast corner of Cornell and Jefferson Streets (now owned by Wilford Summerfield). With the decline of the lumber industry, the congregation languished, and the property was sold to John Baird on January 12, 1906.

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THE POPULATION of Zilwaukee kept growing steadily through the years. In 1860 it was 186 persons. Ten years later it had risen to 1,153. In 1880 the population reached 1,630 distributed in four settlements: Zilwaukee village, 915; Melbourne (where the Whitney and Batchelor mill was located) 315; the New York Works, 145; and the Bliss Mill Settlement, 174. The township outside these settlements counted 81 persons. Few people today realize that the township, which according to the 1950 census numbers 1,487 inhabitants, reached a population of 1,963 in the year 1890.

With the settling of the township by immigrants, the majority of whom were from Canada and Germany, the population became a mixture of nationalities, as a glance at the early poll lists will show—Irish, French, German, with the latter predominating. It is significant to mention an excerpt from the Township Board minutes of a meeting of April 6, 1863. The Board set aside the sum of \$25.00 for the purchase of school books, as had been their habit, but this time explicitly stated that "School inspectors shall expend one-half the amount for books in the German language."

The township officers, as Zilwaukee grew in numbers, found difficulty in keeping law and order among the unruly woodsmen and mill hands. In 1869 the Board voted to purchase a revolver and a set of handcuffs which were to be kept by the town constables. In 1875 the Town Board legislated that all bar rooms must be closed on Sunday.

The havoc of fire was a constant threat and reality to the bustling lumbering center. There were several severe mill fires. In the summer of 1852, the mill of Chapin and Andrews burned, together with 4 million feet of lumber. On May 24, 1857, a sawmill, many docks, and 750,000 feet of lumber burned, with an estimated loss of \$25,000. On May 26, 1879, fire destroyed 6 buildings in the village with a loss of \$6,000 for which insurance coverage was only \$2,200. On October 28, 1882, Hamilton & McClure's plant burned with a loss of \$93,000. At first the villagers fought fire with a bucket brigade of township-owned pails. Later the Carrollton Township apparatus was hired at the rate of \$30 per fire, and still later the Saginaw Fire Department.

PESTILENCE was another scourge of the villagers. The Township Board disposed of an early small pox case by ordering the victim and his family out of the village. During another outbreak of this same disease, the Board ordered all residents to be vaccinated at once, and imposed a strict quarantine on all who refused to comply with the order. The librarian was directed to close the town library, and all business establishments were told to fumigate their places at least twice a week. The Town Board constituted itself as a Board of Health and hired a health officer. At the time of the 1918 "flu" epidemic, the health officer was employed full time for his grim task of caring for the sick and burying the dead.

The danger of floods from the high waters of Spring hung over the village until the building in later years of control power dams on the tributaries of the Saginaw River and the dredging of its channel. Quite often the Township Board voted sums of money to repair flood damage.

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The flood of all floods, however, was that of the Spring of 1904, which inundated the entire village. Deputy Game Warden J. A. Summerfield reported to *The Saginaw Courier-Herald* that at Zilwaukee "the river is 10 to 15 miles wide." Many of the flood sufferers were brought by boat to Saginaw and supplies were hurried to others who were huddled in the upper stories of their homes or on the second floor of the school house which served as a Noah's Arc waiting the abating of the waters. That Summer the Town Board exhausted all its ready funds in repairing flood damage and notified one creditor that there was no money in the treasury "on account of damages done by the high water."

THE TOWNSHIP BOARD for a long time held its meetings in all sorts of places: the offices of the various mills, the Clark House, the depot of the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw Railroad. In 1864, it even voted to spend \$150 to repair the upper story of the school house for a town hall which it rented for the sum of \$25 per year. Finally, exasperated with such constant moving about and paying of rent, the Board, on April 2, 1877, passed a resolution to build a Township Hall "in a place centrally located" and at a cost not to exceed \$600. After some consideration, two lots, 9 and 10, in Block 92, were purchased from Charles Glave for \$250. The contract for the 24' x 50' building was let to Herman Huss, a Zilwaukee resident, who was low bidder with an estimate of \$965. He built strong and well, for his building is still used as the town hall, and this year is celebrating its 77th birthday.

The township very early began the support of a public library and regularly saw to the appointment of a "Township Librarian." The library is mentioned in the minutes of the Board in 1859, when \$25 was allotted it for the purchase of books. In 1880, it contained 422 volumes. The library continued to serve Zilwaukee residents until 1926, when it was discontinued and its books were given to the public school.

Very early the mill settlements tried to provide for the education of their children. The Zilwaukee area was incorporated successively into several school districts. In 1852 it was part of District No. 5 of Saginaw and Hampton Townships. The first election of officers for a school at Zilwaukee was held on February 28, 1852. Otis Shepard was elected the first School Moderator. He was succeeded by Daniel Johnson himself on May 27, 1854. In this

POPULATION OF ZILWAUKIE TOWNSHIP
THROUGH THE YEARS

1860	186
1870	1,153
1880	1,630
1890	1,963
1900	893
1910	741
1920	740
1930	1,063
1940	1,220
1950	1,487

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THE NEW ST. MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH was completed in 1946. The Church was for years a mission of neighboring parishes until established as a territorial parish on March 29, 1949. Its territory comprises all of Kochville Township and that part of Zilwaukee Township lying West of the Saginaw River. Rev. Fr. Eugene A. Forbes is the first and present pastor of the parish.



year the title of the district was changed to "School District No. 1 of Zilwaukee and Saginaw Townships." The first teacher mentioned in the original school inspection record was Miss Celia Ann Hawkins, who was hired on May 31, 1854.

ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1855, the District Board voted the following taxes for the previous school year: "\$58.00 for School support; \$20.00 for the purchase of globes, etc.; \$10.00 for the School director's salary; and \$3,000.00 to build a new school house."

District No. 1 of Zilwaukee Township embracing the entire township was formed in 1863. Later two additional districts were established: No. 2 in 1869 for the New York Works area, and No. 3 in 1879 for the territory East of the river (later annexed to Buena Vista Township.) In 1880, these three districts counted 503 children of school age, of whom 374 were reported in attendance. The school houses were frame buildings, with a total value of \$8,656, and were conducted by 7 teachers. Districts 1 and 2 were consolidated into one district to be known as Fractional District No. 1 in 1898, because "District No. 2 is not self-supporting to maintain a School."

The present brick school building at the head of Johnson Street was built in 1925 at a cost of \$75,000. A four-room addition was made in 1938 for \$30,000. Today the school accomodates 326 students from kindergarten through the 9th grade.

The lumbering industry here reached its zenith in the year 1882, when Saginaw River mills cut over a billion feet of lumber. Then began the slow, deadly decline in lumber production. The immense Michigan forests were not infinite and slowly became bereft of their timber under the strokes of the lumberman's axe. About a half century was all that was required to destroy the vast forests of Michigan. By 1893 the Lower Peninsula was despoiled of her pine and spruce. For awhile logs were towed in rafts to the Saginaw River mills from Canada. It was the dying gasp of a boisterous and prosperous era in Michigan history.

After the fading away of the lumber and allied industries before the turn of the century, Zilwaukee settled down to a quiet village. Many inhabitants were forced to move away in search of work. Melbourne, the New York Works, and the Bliss Mill Settlement slowly disappeared as their mills were dismantled or burned. Zilwaukee proper refused to give up the ghost, and

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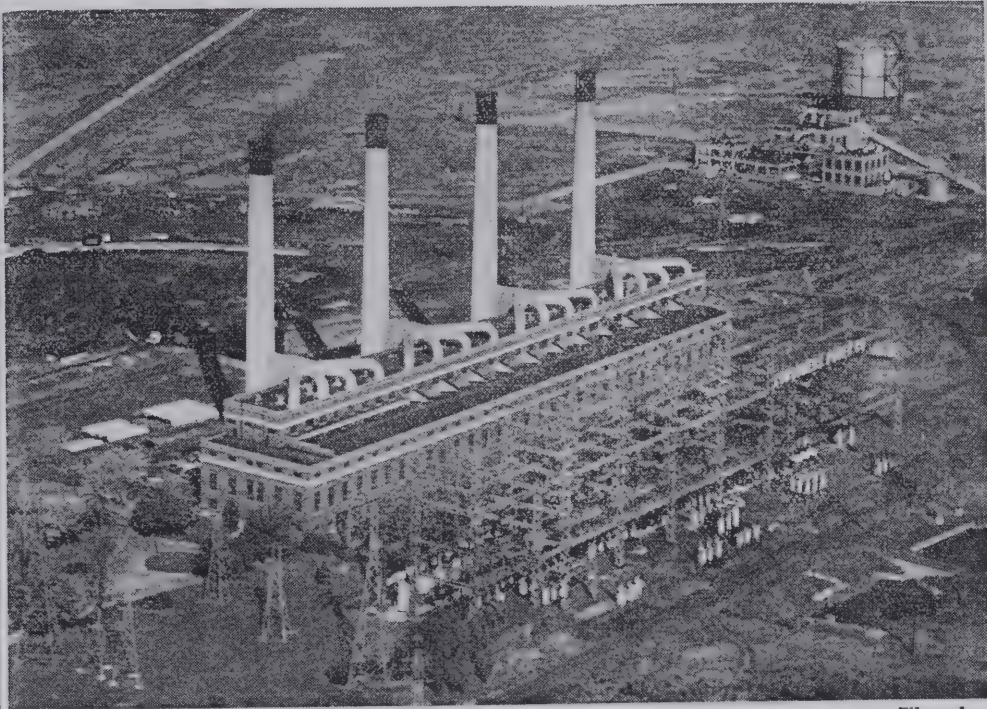
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ABOVE IS THE STEAM GENERATING PLANT of the Consumers' Power Company at Zilwaukee whose first section was begun in 1924. The plant was completed in 1930, and occupies the site of the old New York Works, the New York and Michigan Salt Co., and the Michigan Solar Salt Co., just North of the Zilwaukee Village plat on the shore of the Saginaw River. This year the company's real estate in Zilwaukee is assessed at \$4,396,300 value, while its personal tax assessment is \$233,578.

girded itself for the long, hard years that followed the death of the lumbering industry. Some of its men sought employment in the shops of Saginaw. Others turned to commercial fishing and trapping in the river or to gardening in the rich lands of the township.

A few highlights of Zilwaukee's post-lumber era will help to refresh the memories of older residents.

On December 30, 1908, the Eastern Michigan Power Company was granted permission to erect its poles and wires along the streets of the village. The same permission was granted to the Michigan State Telephone Company on April 18, 1910.

In 1914 the wage of men working on the roads and sidewalks of the township was fixed by the Township Board at \$1.50 per day.

On May 22, 1918, with the advent of the automobile, the Board decreed that the speed limit in the township was henceforth to be 15 miles per hour "to all vehicles and motorcycles."

In the election of November 5, 1918, the big issue was the Amendment to Section I of Article III of the U. S. Constitution relative to the right of women to vote at elections. The majority of Zilwaukee men chivalrously voted in favor of the amendment: Yes—86; No—47. In the elections of the year following, on March 5, 1919, 35 women promptly took advantage of their new privilege and were numbered among the 103 voting.

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THE PRESENT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Zilwaukee, was constructed in 1881 and is situated on the original Church site on S. Franklin Avenue. It replaces a smaller building which now serves as the parish hall. The first pastor of the parish was Rev. W. Klein. Rev. Theodore Horneber is the present pastor.



On April 3, 1922, the Town Board agreed to rename Johnson Street the "Dammann Memorial Road" in honor of John Dammann, who was seriously wounded in the war just finished. Nothing practical came from the resolution with the elapse of time and the incidence of World War II.

A blood transfusion was given to the economy of Zilwaukee in March, 1924, when Consumers' Power Company began operating the first section of its newly-erected steam generating plant on the West bank of the river between the village and the site of the old New York Works. About ten years earlier the company had built a power transforming substation, since discontinued, on this property. Transmission lines carried 140,000 volts of electricity to the substation from dams on the AuSable River, the power being stepped down at the station for distribution to Saginaw, Bay City, Flint and other cities.

THE NEW GENERATING PLANT, which was completed in 1930, is capable of generating 200,000 horsepower. It feeds the company's main transmission lines serving the greater part of lower Michigan, exclusive of the Detroit area. The plant today employs about 150 men, many of whom reside in Zilwaukee.

Consumers' Power Company has been an angel in disguise to Zilwaukee taxpayers. The company annually defrays up to 86% of the real and personal tax in the township, thus giving Zilwaukee property-owners the lowest tax rate in the county.

The township entered a contract with Consumers' Power Company for the purpose of providing street lighting for the village on December 22, 1925.

In 1931, the Town Board declared forfeited the franchise of the Saginaw Transit Co., which had provided street-car service for Zilwaukee residents to and from Saginaw. The company was a depression casualty and had ceased running its cars to and from the village for some time. The Board then granted Alfred L. Glasby a franchise of operating the first bus line to Zilwaukee from Saginaw.

This was the year too that saw the Michigan Central Railroad discontinue in Zilwaukee the operation of its station with attendant agent and service.

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During the depression, the township did its very best to provide work for its unemployed, who were asked to register for the jobs available. One of its projects was to cover the Clark Street drain its entire length through the village.

ONE OF THE MOST APPRECIATED of the later improvements in the Village of Zilwaukee is its water supply system which was built in 1941 at a cost of \$150,000. Water from two wells 125 feet in depth is pumped into a large reservoir tank whence it feeds many household connections and fire hydrants. The system, built as a W. P. A. labor project, was financed with \$100,000 of township money and a \$50,000 bond issue.

In 1947, the township organized a Volunteer Fire Department. A fire station was built on township property at a cost of \$23,000 and a shiny new fire engine, costing \$15,000, was procured. In case of fire, township residents dial an answering service operator who promptly sounds the siren. All firemen within its sound range "drop everything" and rush to the station. It is the boast of the 30 volunteer firemen that their truck is rolling within two minutes from the first alarm.

The original "corduroy" roads in the village have now given way to "black-top," with practically all the village streets covered in this way. The original wooden sidewalks, with their stringers and plank, have been replaced with concrete.

Our most recent improvement is just now under way. Last Fall construction was commenced of a large \$290,000 gymnasium and class-room addition to the Zilwaukee Public School, which, when completed for the opening of school next September, will make it one of the finest grade and junior high schools in the county.

They tell us that highway US 23 around Saginaw will some day cross the Saginaw River at Zilwaukee. Surveys for a new bridge, to be located between the village plat and the Consumers' Power Co. plant, have been made by the State Highway Department. Completion of the bridge, however, is not expected for several years. The bridge will undoubtedly be a contributing factor to the future growth of Zilwaukee.

The U. S. Government is also undertaking to deepen the channel of the Saginaw River. This fact, in conjunction with the recent passage of the St. Lawrence River Seaway Bill, is bound to brighten Zilwaukee's future prospects.

ZILWAUKEE TODAY in great part is a township of natives. Many present-day residents are third and fourth generation descendants of the early township settlers. The majority trace their origin to one or more of the following:

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This list is not complete. Many more names could be added if space permitted. Their names and race live on in their children and in their children's children. Zilwaukee is a better place today because they lived, toiled, served Almighty God, and died here years ago on the shores of the Saginaw River.

Perhaps the enthusiastic prediction of the Johnson brothers in regard to Zilwaukee hasn't been fulfilled to the letter in the sense that Zilwaukee has become "one of the first commercial towns in the State." Zilwaukee remains, however, a "fine land," proud of its more than 100 years of past achievements and hopeful of an even more glorious future in the years ahead.

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